

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal display apparatus including a liquid crystal layer interposed between a first substrate and a second substrate, comprising:

a first gap region with a first gap for interposition of the liquid crystal layer between the first substrate and the second substrate;

a second gap region with a second gap smaller than the first gap;

a first columnar spacer formed in the first gap region on the first substrate; and

a second columnar spacer formed in the second gap region on the first substrate,

wherein a contact area of the first columnar spacer, which contacts the first substrate, is greater than a contact area of the second columnar spacer, which contacts the first substrate, and

wherein the first substrate includes a light shield layer formed in a picture-frame shape along a peripheral edge of a display region, and the first columnar spacer, the second columnar spacer and the light shield layer are formed of the same material.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first gap region includes a first color filter layer that mainly passes first color light, the second gap region includes a second color filter layer that mainly passes second color light, and the first color light has a wavelength greater than a wavelength of the second color light.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first substrate includes, in the first gap region, a first color filter layer

that mainly passes first color light, and includes, in the second gap region, a second color filter layer that mainly passes second color light.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first substrate includes scan lines disposed in a row direction, signal lines disposed in a column direction, switching elements disposed near intersections of the scan lines and the signal lines, and pixel electrodes connected to the switching elements and disposed in a matrix.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first substrate includes a counter electrode common for all pixels.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal display apparatus including a liquid crystal layer interposed between a first substrate and a second substrate, comprising:

a first gap region with a first gap for interposition of the liquid crystal layer between the first substrate and the second substrate;

a second gap region with a second gap smaller than the first gap;

a first columnar spacer formed in the first gap region on the first substrate; and

a second columnar spacer formed in the second gap region on the first substrate,

wherein a dimension of the first columnar spacer is greater than a dimension of the second columnar spacer, the dimensions of the first and second columnar spacers are defined as cross-sectional areas of the first and second columnar spacers in a horizontal plane parallel to the substrate, and

wherein the first substrate includes a light shield layer formed in a picture-frame shape along a peripheral edge of a display region, and the first columnar spacer, the second columnar spacer and the light shield layer are formed of the same material.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first gap region includes a first color filter layer that mainly passes first color light, the second gap region includes a second color filter layer that mainly passes second color light, and the first color light has a wavelength greater than a wavelength of the second color light.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first substrate includes, in the first gap region, a first color filter layer that mainly passes first color light, and includes, in the second gap region, a second color filter layer that mainly passes second color light.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first substrate includes scan lines disposed in a row direction, signal lines disposed in a column direction, switching elements disposed near intersections of the scan lines and the signal lines, and pixel electrodes connected to the switching elements and disposed in a matrix.

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first substrate includes a counter electrode common for all pixels.

Claim 13-19 (Canceled).